

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

From the European Times, March 3.

This event was announced to Parliament last night by the Ministers of the Crown as having taken place, and that the Emperor had expired in both branches of the Legislature, was not greater than that which it will cause throughout Europe and which will be commensurate with the magnitude of the catastrophe entertained. Lord John Russell, who is now in the Prussian capital, first telegraphed home that he had been informed of the death at the point of death, and had just taken leave of his family. This was shortly followed by another telegraphic message from the British Minister in Berlin, to the effect, to be actually explored at St. Petersburg yesterday morning, at one o'clock.

It is hardly possible to overrate the importance of the extinction of this single life in the present circumstances of this and other countries. Its effects must be great and immediate, and it is more than probable, that the bloody struggle impending before Sebastopol, in which thousands of lives would certainly be sacrificed, may be long postponed, or even averted, this morning. In the case of the extinction of a despotic monarch, like the Emperor of Russia, whose will was the law of fifty or sixty millions of his subjects, the consequences, to the living, dies with him, and the restoration of peace becomes, under the circumstances, less a matter of doubt, than of certainty.

The fate which has overtaken this great but unscrupulous Monarch, supposing him to have died a natural, and not like many of his predecessors violent death, constitutes, in the strongest possible manner, how feeble the most potent become, when unsustained by that moral power which is strong, the dominion of war. Twelve months back, before the declaration of hostilities, Nicholas Romanoff, who now lies in state in the city of St. Petersburg, was the most proud, the most powerful, and the most arrogant sovereign on this planet; but this small interval of time has served to reduce him to a more amiable than the humblest of his serfs, for in his nefarious attempts to subjugate a weak and a near neighbour, he has brought upon himself the wrath of the Western powers, stirred up resistance throughout Europe to his dictation, and lived long enough to discover, that the prepared and long-expected retribution, which his less empire, was utterly futile in the pursuit of a bad purpose. The most conservative ruler who ever reigned, he has, in the other hand, when he pushed his aggressions on the property of others beyond the bounds of endurance. The violation of the commandment "Thou shalt not kill," which he has so lately perpetrated in his destruction, — in that prostration of the mental and the physical powers which superinduced apoplexy, — has cost the death of our enemy. It is useless to deny that the dead Czar was a great man, as well as a mighty potentate. Notwithstanding the melancholy and gloomy aspects of the Russian man creates having perished, one way or another, since this war began, — sacrificed, in point of fact, to the insatiable ambition of an unscrupulous ruler, — yet the great quantities of head and heart; and to such of the British nation as settled in Russia, he was extremely partial, and always paid them the most marked attention. The lion preys not upon carcasses. We can afford to do justice to departed worth, even in the person of a foe, and to do so, is not to detract from the merit which terminated his career without the Turkish aggression which produced this war, history would have enrolled him among the most successful and most powerful Monarchs of modern Europe. Perhaps it is as well for the future peace of the world, that this outbreak of Russian rapacity has been so early and so completely repressed, as to be enforced, which will effectually prevent its repetition. The fangs of the wolf will be drawn and the lesson which he has been taught will be exemplified in the conduct of his successor.

The Czar was born on the 6th of July, 1796, and as he had lived until summer would have attained his 45th year. He was a tall, well-proportioned man, but broken hearted — the disappointment caused by the utter failure of all his schemes of aggression, the prostration of all his hopes, and the loss of his empire, had rendered him a wretched being.

Before a great event like this, all the other foreign affairs of the week fade into insignificance.

A DAY OF FASTING.—A Royal proclamation was issued on Wednesday, the 17th inst., that on Friday, next, fasting, humiliation, and prayer throughout the United Kingdom, in order that the Queen and her people may implore the assistance of the Almighty for the restoration of peace. A form of prayer, to be used in all churches and chapels on the occasion, is to be published.

We learn from Athens, of the 24th ultimo, that the French Artillery has left the Piræus, and embarked for the Gulf of Corinth, in order to be prepared to take their departure for the Crimea.

CRIMEAN INTELLIGENCE.

We are in the receipt of regular despatches from the Crimea to us as late as the 16th of February. The delay of our intelligence from the same quarter reaches to the 20th of February. From these sources of information, we learn that the operations of the Allies in the Crimea have still been delayed by the inclemency of the weather, and by the consequent impossibility of bringing up a sufficient amount of ammunition to the front. The weather, however, is now improving, and is making with the railway from Balaklava, which, on the 16th, had already been completed to the British camp, and is now advancing and with a rapidly getting better, and apparently incomprehensible to the military engineers. The "Navies," if they are not to be sent to the front, are acting under the direction of their own selfish officers, are executing it with the vigour natural to the British character, when left to its own unwarmed and unimpeded action. The high health and fine condition in which the "civil contractors" have brought these sturdy fellows to the front of labour, reflects the severest reproach that has yet been offered upon the great and capable mismanagement of the military and political authorities, who have sent every regiment or fraction of a regiment hither to land in the Crimea has instantly afterwards been reduced to the last extremity of exhaustion and prostration, and the "Navies" have been visited by none of these calamities, but have immediately commenced their operations, and have, in the mean time, opened snow, and matches strength, as if they were simply engaged in laying down the trams of a railway in one of the healthy valleys of the British Islands, when left to its own military system and civilian common sense.

Whilst matters remain pretty much in statu quo before the walls of Sebastopol, intelligence, received from the Turkish camp at Eupatoria. Our readers will remember that, during the month of January, the Turkish force, which is estimated at about 30,000 men has been in the course of transport from Varna to the ancient Crimea port of Kozlov, now better known as Eupatoria. These troops are the flower of the Turkish Army—the same brave fellows who triumphantly withstood all the assaults of the English and Russian troops on the Danube—at Kalafat, Clifate, Oltnitza, and Silistria. Transferred to the Crimea, they have lost nothing of the discipline and courage which distinguished them in the East. They are commanded by Omar Pacha in person, and are supported by a small body of the troops of the Crimea, and a portion of the force which is held by the Turkish Government, as calculated to produce a striking effect upon the future operations of the campaign. It enables him to hold the heights of the peninsula of the Perekop and the interior of the Crimea, and, at the same time, permits him to threaten, or even to attack, the positions of the Allies on the northern side of Sebastopol. It was not to be expected, that the Russian Commander-in-Chief would allow our Allies to take the advantage of the position, which he would without an effort to dislodge them. Accordingly, on the 17th of February, Liprandi's division, consisting of about 30,000 infantry, and 2000 cavalry, commenced operations at Eupatoria, with the intention of driving Omar Pacha into the sea. We are not yet in possession of the details of the engagements which ensued. It is certain, however, that the Russian assault was victoriously repulsed. From the brief and fragmentary accounts which have been published, it is evident that the Allies defended themselves in force before the defence of Eupatoria, at six o'clock in the morning; that a heavy cannonade was instantly opened, and that the Allies, in consequence of the assault, was attempted under cover of the fire of 70 guns. At 10 o'clock, however, the Russian heavy artillery ceased to fire, and afterwards, not a vestige of it was to be seen from the walls of Eupatoria, except the dead and wounded which it left behind. The Russian heavy artillery, which was not used, and which the Turks did not exceed 50, or, as some of the officers say, 15. It is probable, that the latter figures refer to the number of guns which were brought to the front by Selim Pacha, the Egyptian General, as well.

This repulse of the Russians at Eupatoria is likely to have a most beneficial effect, and will restore the confidence of the Allies in the other of their Turkish confederate, and it will convince the enemy, that Omar Pacha has been a successful commander, and that he is a high rank for successful command, which so signally distinguished him in the Danubian campaign of the last year.

The maintenance of the Allies in front of Sebastopol may be, it is impossible to conjecture. It is probable, however, that it will be necessary for the Allies to possess a considerable strength, in the direction of Inkerman, Baidar, and the country eastward of Balaklava. The Russians have lately re-appeared in unusual numbers at the mouth of the bay of the Tcherhaya, and are supposed to be threatening the right of the Allied position. No assault upon the town or fortress could with prudence

be attempted, while such a force was occupying the country in the immediate neighbourhood. We presume, therefore, that we shall hear of an engagement in the field, before the middle of the spring, in the shape of an assault upon the city.

DEPART OF THE RUSSIANS AT EUPATORIA.

Lord Raglan has transmitted the following despatch to the War-office:—

"BEFORE SEBASTOPOL. Feb. 18.—A force, said to be 40,000 of Russians, with a large number of heavy guns, departed at daylight on the 17th, and was repulsed with loss by Omar Pacha. The Turkish loss is said to be inconsiderable, but Selim Pacha, commanding the Turkish forces, is said to have been a brave and valiant man-of-war, under the Hon. Captain Hastings, covered both flanks with great effect. The action terminated at 10 a.m., when the Russians retired a few miles.

The Monitor publishes a despatch of a nearly similar character. Other despatches have been received in confirmation, and stating the loss of the Russians to have amounted to 500, and the Turkish to 1000. A battery served by the French lost 4 men.

VIENNA, Feb. 20.—The attack on Eupatoria on the 17th was a serious affair. The Russians, to the effect of 30,000 men, made several vigorous attacks. They lost 428 men on the field, and carried off many wounded. The Turks lost 80 killed. Selim Pacha, the Egyptian Commander, was killed, and his place was taken by Omar Pacha. The Russians bivouacked during a bitterly cold night on the way to Simpheropol, or, rather, on the way to Sak.

ON THE RUSSIAN VERSION.

BRISBANE, Tuesday, Feb. 27.—Advice from St. Petersburg, received at this office, that the following despatch had been received from Prince Menschikov, dated the 19th of February:—On the 17th, a portion of the troops engaged in the defence of Eupatoria, made a reconnaissance against the town to within a distance of 250 yards (toes). They opened a heavy cannonade, and in a short time succeeded in dismounting a portion of the enemy's guns, and in blowing up five caissons of ammunition. Having assured himself, that the Turkish force was not strong, he ordered his guns, Gen. Cherulief, who commanded the detachment, gave orders to retire out of range, which was done in perfect order.

An English cavalry regiment from Bombay has arrived at Cairo on its way to the Crimea.

It is intended immediately to reinforce the Army in the Crimea by sending out at least 10,000 men, and 2000 cavalry and 2000 artillery. Tokk Pacha, son-in-law of Omar Pacha, has died at Eupatoria of typhus fever. Fresh troops continually arrive at Balaklava. A great many troops have arrived.

Recruiting for the 4th Light Dragoons, who have been ordered to the Crimea, is in progress at Manchester, where there are already 220 fresh horses and 140 men in active training.

The attention of the Board of Ordnance has been called to a newly-invented shell, without a fuse, and so constructed as to explode at any given interval, according to the desire of the person projecting it. It is the invention of a Frenchman.

THE EMPEROR'S VISIT TO THE CRIMEA.—PARIS, March 1.—No one now doubts longer as to the Emperor's journey. He will go at the end of this week or at the beginning of next. He will be escorted by the Imperial Guard, the Guides, and the gendarmes of the Imperial Guard. Some of these corps have already received their orders. The Emperor affirmed, that the Emperor goes with him.

EUPATORIA, Feb. 21.—Since the 17th no new attempt has been made against Eupatoria. To-day we have seen Russian infantry columns and trains of waggons moving away in the direction of Simpheropol. Several villages in the neighbourhood are now burning. Three heavy guns have been landed, and new works of fortification are in course of construction.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRUSSIA.

The French Government still maintains that Prussia will not be admitted to take any part in the conference of Vienna, must engage herself to abide by the majority, whatever that may be, and Prussia, or rather General de Bismarck, will not be admitted to the point, in one, which is a proper matter for discussion by the Conference which he asks to be admitted to.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.—BRISBANE, March 1.—The Emperor of Austria has just returned to the forenoon. He waited upon Baron de Mettel, in the afternoon. He had an audience of the King to-day. M. de Mettel, the Prussian Minister, will return to Paris to-day. He will return to Paris on Tuesday or Wednesday next.

BERLIN, March 2.—The dinner at Court to-day in honour of Lord Russell has been deferred.

A VISIT FROM A RUSSIAN GRANDEE, AT A RESPECTABLE DISTANCE.—On the 13th, a Russian General, of high rank, from a distinguished and brilliant staff by which he was attended, and who was supposed to be one of the Great Duke round Balaklava, visited a few of our Cosack regiments, to which he who offered his position on the hills from the Turkish redoubts commanding the Wormwood road. The great Duke, of his high rank, from a telescope with a stand on which to rest it, while surveying the lines. The whole party stayed nearly three hours in No. 3 redoubt, and if one might judge from the appearance of the Russian General, and exciting discussion on the merits of our defences appeared to be going forward. If the Russian General, who is the very root of it, by no means envy him the following with which he must have recognised, by the furrows on the hill sides, our deep lines of trenches, breastworks, well dug, infantry pits, and above all, the cannon with which every point is surrounded. Whatever Russian General takes Balaklava from us will purchase his conquest at a very high price. I doubt if the Emperor of all Russia would think any sacrifice too great to secure the possession of this important point, which all the world is looking just now.

THE REBELLION IN AUSTRALIA.

By the letters and papers brought by the Overland Mail, which have reached us to-day we have later accounts of the disturbances at Ballarat, which are as follows:—

Queens Office, Tuesday Morning.

With deep and heartfelt regret we have received the following intelligence, through the medium of the Straits Times. We have little doubt, however, that law and loyalty will speedily triumph.

From the Straits Times, Jan. 16.

After the above was set in type, we received, via Batavia, Melbourne and Adelaide papers to the beginning of December. The Melbourne journals mention, that the disturbances at Ballarat, which commenced in the month of a rebellion. The diggers had armed themselves and fought with the troops, the latter consisting of the 1st, 2nd, 11th and 12th Regiments. Several of the soldiers were killed, and the diggers were slain. Mr. Commissioner Reed was a prisoner in the hands of the diggers. Monday morning had been held at Melbourne and at the diggings, at which the liberty of all digger prisoners was demanded as a condition of the dismissal of Mr. Foster, the Colonial Secretary.

The Argus, of Dec. 6, says, the latter functionary had resigned. Melbourne was in a state of commotion, and every one in the service of the government was sworn as a special constable, not excepting the Post-office Clerks. The arrival of the Argus from Melbourne, on the 10th inst., has been the greatest excitement prevailed. The diggers had raised the banner of independence.

The Melbourne papers, and every one who respects classes were with the government. Governor Sir Charles Hotham had called upon all good citizens to join him in enforcing the law. "Accordingly," says the Argus, "Melbourne's tens of thousands were as one man, and proceeded to Ballarat with a view to disarming gentlemen, such as never escorted a British general before."

An extraordinary meeting was summoned on Dec. 4, which proclaimed martial law within the district of Buninyong, from noon of Dec. 5th. It is especially declared, that no force of arms may be used in any communication without his Excellency's express consent.

VIGOR AND DEXTERITY OF THE ZOUAVES.—The Russians in the town have been extremely active of late, and no longer show in the same numbers, promading in and round their works, as they were wont to do. Several of the batteries have erected to the north of the valley of Inkerman, and a man maintains its fire on all who are proceeding imprudent to quit the line of our defences on the north of the valley of Inkerman, erected above the Tcherhaya, on the rear of our lines, also opens an occasional fire, and several of the wounded stragglers who descend the valley in search of shelter, have been killed. It has caused no casualty yet, nor firing at any shorter range than 4,000 yards. The Zouaves are now in the greatest of their present. These indefatigable troops avail themselves with the most persevering ingenuity of all the resources of their art, and are not only successful for wild ducks, which they place in the Tcherhaya each night, and descend to before the front of our day batteries. The Zouaves have made good use of their skill. Others dig, and are eminently successful—never failing to secure an immense haul of fish, a large quantity of which they sell to the officers about the English camp.